

**COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**  
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Steve C. Davis

A **meeting** of the **COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, was held on **Monday, July 9, 2012**, in the Assembly Room of the Berkeley County Administration Building, 1003 Highway 52, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 6:21 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Steve C. Davis, Council District No. 8; Committee Member Phillip Farley, Council District No. 1; Committee Member Robert O. Call, Jr., Council District No. 3; Committee Member Dennis L. Fish, Council District No. 5; ex-officios Mr. Daniel W. Davis, Supervisor and County Council Chairman, Mrs. Cathy Davis, Council District No. 4; Mr. Jack Schurlknight, Council District No. 6; Ms. Nicole Ewing, County Attorney; and Ms. Catherine R. Windham, Interim Clerk of County Council. Committee Member Timothy J. Callanan, Council District No. 2 was absent. Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Council District No. 7 was excused.

*In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the electronic and print media were duly notified.*

Chairman Steve Davis: "I'd like to call the Committee on Justice and Public Safety Meeting to order. Ms. Clerk, has this meeting been properly noticed via the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act?"

Ms. Windham: "Yes sir, it has."

Chairman S. Davis: "First on the agenda is..."

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**June 11, 2012**  
**June 25, 2012**

Committee Member Fish: "Move for approval."

Committee Member Farley: "Second."

Chairman S. Davis: "There's a motion and a second. Are there any corrections to these minutes? (No Response). All in favor please say Aye (Ayes). Those opposed? (No Response). The minutes stand approved as presented."

It was moved by Committee Member Fish and seconded by Committee Member Farley to **approve** the minutes as presented. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Chairman S. Davis: "First on the agenda..."

**A. Chief Deputy C.W. Henerey, Sheriff's Office, Re: 2012 Bulletproof Vest Grant matching funds.**

Chief Henerey: "We have approximately 123 bulletproof vests that will expire between now and December 30, 2013. This is the first time in 17 years that we had to come to you and ask for assistance on the vests. The two previous occasions when we purchased them we were able to use block grants. However, when we did the budget this year, Uncle Sam had not notified us of any funds that were going to be available. They later notified us that the only grant that is out there right now is a 50/50. That is the paperwork that you have before you. It would cost \$88,113 and 50% of that would be \$44,056. This is the largest group that we have. The remaining vests are staggered at different times. When Sheriff DeWitt took over in '95, this is one of the few agencies that was not furnishing their deputies with vests. We started doing that in '99 and have been able to accomplish that task until this time without having to ask for any additional funds."

Committee Member Fish: "Mr. Chairman?"

Chairman S. Davis: "Yes"

Committee Member Fish: "Chief Henerey, what do you do with the old vests?"

Chief Henerey: "They have to be either returned to the manufacturer or destroyed. Most of the time the manufacturer will tell you to destroy them because they don't want to pay, because of the weight, to have them returned to them. They are not recyclable."

Committee Member Fish: "Move for approval."

Committee Member Farley: "Second."

Chairman S. Davis: "Any further discussion? (No Response)."

Supervisor D. Davis: "We need to state where the money is coming from."

Committee Member Fish: "I make a motion for the matching funds to come from the contingency fund."

Supervisor D. Davis: "Can I make a recommendation that we use the Capital Improvement Fund? We have some savings in there."

Committee Member Fish: "I will go along with that. I make my motion for the funds to come from the Capital Improvement Fund."

Committee Member Farley: "Second"

Chairman S. Davis: "All those in favor please signify by Ayes (Ayes). Those opposed? (No Response). It stands approved."

It was moved by Committee Member Fish and seconded by Committee Member Farley to **approve** the acceptance of the 2012 Bulletproof Vest Grant in the amount of \$88,113.66 (50% paid by the grant and 50% in matching funds from the Capital Improvement Fund in the amount of \$44,056.85). The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Chairman S. Davis: "Ok, let's move on to the second item."

**B. Sheriff Wayne DeWitt, Sheriff's Office, Re:** Additional funds to add (1) one CPL (Deputy Sheriff II) to the School Resource Officer's personnel budget.

Chief Henerey: "The second item was a School Resource Officer, an additional School Resource Officer. Again, when we prepared the budget in March and April, we were not aware and the School District, their board had not met and passed their budget. They have since passed their budget and have agreed to pay a portion of this School Resource Officer. Not knowing whether that was going to be done or not, we didn't specifically include a School Resource Officer in our budget. But we did include some additional deputies. My understanding is that those deputies weren't approved, so I can't convert one of those slots to this School Resource Officer. We are asking for a slot in the amount of \$31,744. The additional \$26 or \$27 thousand will be furnished by the School District."

Chairman S. Davis: "So what would be the total cost for this?"

Chief Henerey: "\$27 and \$31,744. That is benefits and salary for the officer."

Chairman S. Davis: "For one Resource Officer?"

Chief Henerey: "For one Resource Officer. Primarily the benefits is what runs it up. It is a Corporal's position. It's not a Lieutenant or a Captain or anything like that. It is entry level."

Committee Member Farley: "Where will this money come from?"

Chairman S. Davis: "I don't know. This is for one particular school or..."

Chief Henerey: "Actually, the plan is to use it out at Cane Bay at the middle school. But this will also us to free up a supervisor to float between schools. As you know, anytime we can keep an officer in the school, we can keep an officer on the street. He doesn't have to respond to the school if there is an officer there. The School District has asked us to try and maintain as much presence as we can around Cane Bay including the middle school. That's one of the areas that we are going to try and use, but it will free up one to float from school to school."

Chairman S. Davis: "So all of the other schools have a Resource Officer is what you are telling me."

Chief Henerey: "I don't think all of the other schools have them. I don't have those figures with me."

Chairman S. Davis: "Let me ask you this question. So there is a Resource Officer at say, Berkeley Middle School?"

Chief Henerey: "That is in the town and I believe the town does have a Resource Officer there."

Chairman S. Davis: "The town does. Is the Resource Office for the middle school out there to Goose Creek High School? Middle school, I', concerned with middle school."

Chief Henerey: "No sir. Kace has the current list."

Chairman S. Davis: "I'm just.....what is the difference between high school and middle school? I'm trying to find out. I mean, my God, that is where we are? You got to have a cop at a middle school?"

Chief Henerey: "Unfortunately, the stats would show that we have numerous problems and the safety of our children."

Chairman S. Davis: "I'll tell you why I take the opportunity to say this because I practice law somewhat and I see where the school is not too much concerned about addressing some of the issues that I think are school issues that could be resolved. I mean, if you miss and stump your toe around the school, they consider that disturbing school. They dump it over in Juvenile Court. Juvenile Court and the Family Court judges are tied up. That is what happens when you put officers in place. They have got to find something to do. In regard to that, the school don't want to take responsibility for some of the things I think they should be doing in reference to handling discipline and addressing some of the school's concerns that may arise during the course of a school day."

Chief Henerey: "You and I have had that conversation and I would intend to agree with you on some of those issues. However, the facts would remain the same. Last year we had numerous drug problems out in the Cane Bay area. It is just not in high schools anymore. We tend to put the safety of our children first."

Chairman S. Davis: "Well, I'm all for the safety of kids. Where are you going to get the source of the money from? That is the issue too."

Supervisor D. Davis: "Well, hopefully we can work it out in personnel savings and in the budget to authorize a position that is not funded."

Ms. Kace Smith: "I believe that the school is going to be putting some money in towards this. They are increasing their contract amounts."

Chairman S. Davis: "I understand that but we still got to come up with \$31,000."

Ms. Smith: "No, I don't believe our share is \$31,000."

Chairman S. Davis: "What are you asking for, Butch?"

Chief Henerey: "\$31,000

Ms. Smith: "Is the position. But the ...

Chief Henerey: "\$31,744 is our share. That includes benefits, everything."

Ms. Smith: "Ok, and I thought the school is going to be increasing their contribution to us to about 320."

Chief Henerey: "They have increased it by \$25,790."

Ms. Smith: "They currently pay 295."

Chief Henerey: "Right, so they are absorbing some of it and again, we get to use these officers at any time we need them anywhere else, but we also use them all summer long in other positions."

Committee Member Farley: "(inaudible)...cost us \$12 - \$15,000, roughly?"

Chairman S. Davis: "In theory. Tell me how that theory works? Educate me on that theory."

Ms. Smith: "Any shortage that is not covered by the school contract, the County would need to cover, yes."

Chairman S. Davis: "That is correct. Now, what I like, Butch, is in the summertime you could utilize those deputies in other areas."

Chief Henerey: "Correct and we do every....not only in the summer time, but when schools are on Christmas break, Spring break. That is why we pay a portion of their salaries."

Committee Member Fish: "Chairman, I agree with you. I think the schools need to start stepping up with (inaudible).

Chairman S. Davis: "Ok, this has been on the floor. I'll call for the vote. Are you ready to vote on it? All those in favor, signify by Aye? (Ayes) Opposes? (No Response) It stands approved."

It was moved by Committee Member Fish and seconded by Committee Member Farley to **approve** an additional personnel slot within the Berkeley County Sheriff's Department School Resource Officers' Personnel Budget #4209, with funds coming from contingency in the amount of \$31,744.25. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

**C. Mary P. Brown, Clerk of Court, Re: 2012 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG).**

Mrs. Brown: "And my Chief Deputy is here and she is the one that did the paperwork. In case you have some questions I might not can answer. We are behind in court technology compared to other courts. I'm here to request the acceptance of a grant, acceptance of a Justice Assistance Grant for video conferencing for the Court rooms. This grant... now this is what it will do. The grant is for video conferencing in the Court rooms. Monitors and cameras will be on mobile carts and moved around as needed for Court room efficiency. The equipment will work with outside judicial agencies. Cost savings and transporting is estimated at \$55,000 annually. It is probably mostly juveniles, Mr. Davis, because of the detention hearings. Cost savings, like I said, would be 55. It's a safety benefit. The Solicitor, the Sheriff's Department, the DJJ and the Family Court judges are all in agreement. The grant award is \$38,325. We have to match it with 10% out of our budget funds. \$3,833. So, I'm here to ask for your approval of this grant."

Chairman S Davis: "\$3,833."

Mrs. Brown: "Yes sir"

Committee Member Farley: "Move for approval."

Committee Member Fish: "Second."

Chairman S. Davis: "Any further discussion? (No Response). All in favor signify by Aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No Response). Motion carries. Thank you, Ms. Brown."

It was moved by Committee Member Farley and seconded by Committee Member Fish to **approve** the 2012 Justice Assistance Grant with matching funds in the amount of \$3,833 to come from the Clerk of Court's budget. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Committee Member Farley: "I move for adjournment."

Committee Member Fish: "Second."

Chairman S. Davis: "All those in favor please signify by Aye (Ayes). We stand adjourned. Thank you."

Ms. Windham: "Before you adjourn, can I have a clarification on the funds coming for the bulletproof vests?"

Chairman S. Davis: "Capital Improvement"

Ms. Windham: "Thank you"

It was moved by Committee Member Farley and seconded by Committee Member Fish to **adjourn** the Committee Meeting on Justice and Public Safety. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 6:32 p.m.

August 13, 2012  
Date Approved